

April 24, 2013

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

Cyber takes center stage in U.S.-China talks (Rep. Franks)



General Martin Dempsey and Chinese General Fang Fenghui offered serious words on cyber security.

United States and Chinese military offices held their highest-level talks in nearly two years on Monday, discussing the U.S. rebalance toward the Pacific, recent heightened tensions in North Korea and a possible renewal of six-party talks. However, cyber security - as well as the consequences of a major cyber attack - took center stage during the post-meeting press conference.

Fang Fenghui, a senior Chinese general, stood side by side with Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin E. Dempsey Monday, pledging to work with the United States on cybersecurity and stating a major cyber attack could **"be as serious as a nuclear bomb."**

If only our own Congressional leadership was willing to take such a hard look at the potential consequences of a vulnerable electric grid, and recognize that our national security network is inextricably linked to that grid. Let's not forget 99 percent of our

DoD infrastructure is dependent upon a civilian power grid which, according to our Director of National Intelligence and our FBI Director, is a priority target for cyber criminals.

After a decade of concentrating on Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States will now carry out an Asia Pacific policy of "three mores," General Dempsey said during the press conference - bringing more interest, more engagement and more quality assets to the region. Our focus, as Congressional leaders, should be to ensure our Defense Department has the **means** to enforce those "mores," especially in the realm of cyber and electric grid security.

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Secretary Kerry Suggests Removing Missile Defense from East Asia Discussion (Rep. John Fleming)

Last week the Administration's inept foreign policy decision-making was on full display as Secretary Kerry met with Chinese officials to suggest that the United States could remove some of its missile defense systems in the East Asia region in exchange for China applying more pressure on North Korea. Sure, China's leaders certainly don't like our military presence in their sphere of influence and it would be great to have them onboard with sanctions efforts, but there are three fundamental flaws in this strategy. The most obvious is that this offering will in no way persuade China to drop its resistance to put pressure on Pyongyang. Decades of diplomatic efforts on this front have failed thus far and nothing in the global arena suggests China would be better off in diverting from its standard line that all parties should continue to show restraint and that the North should meet its international obligations.

Second, even on the off chance that China does indeed put pressure on North Korea, this shouldn't be treated as some silver bullet that will get the North to suddenly drop its nuclear program development; it is a rogue state determined to remain nuclear armed. Secretary Kerry is gambling with a scenario that would put the United States in the position of removing its missile defense systems in order to meet its end of an agreement with China. All indications point to an Administration that would not have the backbone to rightly renege on such a promise if little to no progress is made in the North denuclearizing.

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Secretary Kerry Suggests Removing Missile Defense from East Asia Discussion (Rep. Fleming)

Finally, it boggles the mind to envision a scenario where removing our defenses would meet the objective of nuclear nonproliferation in the region. Instead, we up the stakes that South Korea and Japan may consider going nuclear as a deterrent to replace the security that U.S. missile defense shields provide. In its diplomatic efforts, the Administration has attempted to demonstrate to China that the North's advancement in its nuclear program will lead to an arms race in the region. This is certainly true, but we'll get there a lot faster by weakening the assurances we currently provide to our allies.



North Korea is a rogue state determined to remain nuclear armed.

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